

Volume 9, Edition 3

March

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club **WIRELESS**



2005



"... very delighted," says ZL1MP

WHAT'S IN THE WELL APPOINTED HAM SHACK

FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

I lost a dear friend of mine this week. Henry, KK6PH, passed away on Sunday, March 6th. He

and I went to St. Francis together. We both liked to tinker with things, so that is how we became friends. Henry, even in the 8th grade, had a vast knowledge of electronics. We spent a lot of time together when we were in high school working on projects that would either spark, smoke or explode.

Later he and Sharon got their ham licenses so that they could stay in touch while he was traveling around the world. They both were always available to help with our VE sessions. I will miss him.

On a brighter note, our scheduling problem with the county has been resolved and we will have our Hamfest as originally planned, April 23. Please plan on helping in some way because this is our one big club fund-raiser.

Another scheduling issue has also been resolved. We will have Field Day at Maxwell Park just like last year. The date for that event is June 25 and 26.

The new radios and antennas for the EOC were installed thanks to Darrel, WD6BOR, Mike, WB6TMH, Ken, N6KM, Eileen, KG6QNT and Steve, KD6KVG. (This is our President foreseeing the future. The work party will be tomorrow as this is written. Ed.) (PPS. Jim CAN foresee the future! It's Friday evening and the new radios, antenna and power distribution are installed! And thanks to Jim,

K6UUW, who was there from first to last.)

We had scheduled a trip to Monterey the weekend of the ARRL DX contest so I didn't do too much, only 61 Q's. Band conditions were poor but good openings to Japan on 15m.

Make sure to attend the next meeting at the Sonoma Fire station on 2nd Street. We will start planning for Hamfest. Hope to see you all there.

I don't think that global warming will be affected if you get on the air, so no excuses.

73, Jim

This is the program description.

What is a Windom? I am asking trivia questions like Ed, KA6OFR, does on the 4 C's net every morning. That question will be answered and how to get one will be the subject of the next meeting's program.

VOMARC MINUTES FEBRUARY 16, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm. There were 17 in attendance.

There were no January minutes in the newsletter due to a computer crash. The minutes are on the website. It was deemed unnecessary to read them tonight.

Treasurer's report: There is about \$900 in the bank. Dues are still payable for those who have not already done so.

ACS: If anyone has not taken the August training, the ICS and SEMS part MUST be taken by March or the person will be dropped from ACS roster. The training will be given three times between now and March. Dates have not been set yet, but it will be two Thursday evenings and a Saturday morning. ID cards still have not been issued and will not be issued until the county is ready to issue all its new ID cards. Ken, N6KM, visited the Marin County emergency communications group. He found that they have a good, active group. One item of interest is that they have "keepers" who are responsible for remote equipment installations. These people routinely check the equipment to be sure it is in operable order. It is suggested that we need to check and activate the equipment more often, and that a quarterly schedule might be instituted. There was a discussion of ACS concerns as an emergency services entity. It needs to be recognized by the local emergency services organization. There was a discussion of workman's compensation for ACS members. Workers comp covers the member for portal to portal travel ONLY if the person has been activated for a service. Travel to and from a regular training is not covered.

All the new equipment is here. Darrel, WD6BOR, and Mike, WB6TMH, are in charge of the installation of the equipment. Anyone wishing to help may contact them.

SUITSAT: Mike, WB6TMH, gave a report on the SuitSat project. The boards are well along in the design phase. There are two boards being built. For those not familiar with Suitsat, there is a Russian space suit that is outdated that is to be discarded. The Eagle project team had the idea of using the space suit for experimental purposes. It will have a camera on the helmet and the sensor boards on the legs. The astronauts will attach the equipment to the suit and place it outside the ISS. It is expected there will be about two weeks before it deorbits. The hope is there will be much information gathered that will be helpful in designing the sensors for the Eagle Project and future amateur satellites. Herb Sullivan is at the meeting in Houston.

Solar Panels: The project is going slowly. Henry Primsch, who has been helping Jim with the solar panel project, had surgery to replace a hip. He fell and is back in the hospital. He listens to his radio, so be sure to give him a call.

WEBSITE: If anyone has suggestions, please contact Jan Bush, AE6FQ. The ad for the Hamfest is on the website and

all advertising for the Hamfest will direct people to the website.

The vacuum tube project will be a long-term project. The tubes are being sold on EBAY. They are being trickled on so the site isn't flooded and thus cause lower pricing. The tubes are fairly easy to sell. The price varies widely. Jim, K6UUW, tests the tubes and writes the information on a label that is attached to the tube base so the person buying the tube has all the information. The first week, there were six tubes put up for auction and four of the six sold. The second week there were six of six sold. Darrel will need help packaging and getting them to the post office. It was suggested there be a tube packaging party like the tube sorting party. Volunteers will be needed to help Jim test the tubes (he had the tube tester at the meeting tonight), then once tested, they can be packaged with the info on the outside of the box for ease in identifying to place on Ebay and to mail. They are being sold as tested, matched pairs.

The antenna book is available to check out. Contact Jim if you wish to borrow the book.

The ham class has started. There is one new person, one returning person, and one review person. There have been more calls regarding the class, so there may be another person or two sign up. Since the class is so small, it is going to be offered as an upgrade

class also. The only cost will be the new book if needed, plus code tapes or CD's. The last class will be a special VE session. Last years, some of the attendees were not able to take the test due to work schedules.

The VE session on February 12th went well. There were eight candidates - seven new and 1 upgrade. All but one passed. The tests can now be printed off the internet along with the answer key, so if a different test is needed, it is available. Joel, NN6J, gave \$40 of the fees for the test to the club to cover cost of materials. The club is allowed to keep \$4 per person of the fee for its expenses. The next VE session will be the special session on April 19, 2005, at the last ham class, followed by the next regular VE test on April 23, 2005, at the Ham Fest. The April 19th session will be a by-appointment session, the one at the hamfest will be a walk-in. It was asked that a non-VE person be at the session on April 19th, do help with the paperwork.

New Business:

Jan Harvey, K9OOU, is net control for both ACS and VOMARC nets for the month of March.

All the paperwork for the Hamfest has been submitted to the County. The insurance rider has been received, the letter verifying the City's free day has been received. All have been forwarded to the county for final

approval. We need to start our advertising campaign now in order to assure a good turnout. There was discussion of inviting the Solano county ACS to bring their equipment over to put on display and to have a presentation, possibly power point, regarding the goals and objective of emergency services communication. It was decided the hamfest should go until 1pm or 1:30PM so the people bringing in equipment would not be coming all the way over for only an hour or hour and a half. The secretary will contact Jesse at the county parks department and be sure we have the Vet's building until 5PM. It was decided to have hot dogs or something for lunch if we extend the hours of the hamfest. There was some discussion of just how to accommodate a slide or PowerPoint presentation - whether a separate room would be needed or if it could be visible enough if it were done in the main room or dining room. There was also discussion about including the CHP helicopter, the Red Cross, the Sheriff's department, etc. Since we do not want to interfere with the Fire Departments annual event, it was decided to invite them to attend, but not necessarily request them to display their emergency equipment. A motion was made, seconded, and passed.

There is a DX contest in next month. It had been suggested the club do a camp out at Dillon's beach to participate.

However, it turns out the contest is on the same weekend as Easter Sunday. It was decided to do a camp out another time, not necessarily during a contest. The next DX contest is in September. There was discussion of participating and trying to get a location in Diamond A as was done a few years ago when the club participated.

There is a 6m net on 52.20 every Tuesday night at 8PM. Anyone interested is invited to check in.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM and the activity for the night commenced. The activity was to convert all Molex connectors to the Anderson power pole connectors. This is becoming the standard for all equipment, so it is suggested everyone convert to the Anderson power poles in order to be able to use their equipment at Field Day and during emergency activities.

Submitted, Joan, W6WXU,
Secretary

TUBS, TUBS, TUBS... (TUBES?)

For a short course in tube testing, give Presidente' Jim, K6UUW, a call at 935-7441 to arrange for your valuable training. Maybe you can test tubes in a hot tub?

THE STUDENTS ARE STUDYING

The current VOMARC license class is a mixed bag, with as many new Technician students as there are General upgrade attendees. Our class runs for nine weeks, and is in only the fifth week if any of you VOMARC'ers who have been thinking of upgrading would like to sit in and give it a try.

Classes are held every Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Sonoma Fire Station Training room, 630 Second Street West. We have a few more current General Class study guides available for \$17 for any members wishing to join the class.

We will be doing something different this year by having a VE session on the last class night, April 19 at 6:30 pm, and then having a "second chance" VE session at our regular VOMARC Hamfest.

For more information, call Jim, K6UUW, at 935-7441, or Darrel, WD6BOR, at 996-4494. It's easy if you try.

It's Silly Question Time...

Faster than a speeding librarian, More powerful than a card catalogue, able to leap term papers at a single bound—this month: research on the Internet.

Dear Eileen,

I want to get my Ham Radio license. When I look for HAM on the Internet I got, 39 casserole

recipes, 14 links to Hickory Farms and an offer for hog futures. Got any ideas?

—Hamming it Up

Dear H.U.,

Try searching for HAM +RADIO, indicating you want to search for both words. You can also search for "ham radio" in quotes to indicate that you want to search for that exact phrase.

—Eileen

(This column appears regularly in the Chamber of Commerce business news.)

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 9 EDITION 3

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club - W6AJF

Frank C. Jones - W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW - President
Dan Sorrick, KG6LJN - Vice-Pres
Joan Brady, W6WXU - Secretary
Ken McTaggart, N6KM - Treasurer
Eileen Adams, KG6QNT, Membership Chair
Mike Miller, WB6TMH - Radio Officer
Ken McTaggart, N6KM - ACS
Jan Bush, AE6FQ - Webmeister
Darrel Jones, WD6BOR - Editor

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month, alternating between McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge, and the Sonoma Fire Station, 630 2nd Street West, Sonoma. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE:
<http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

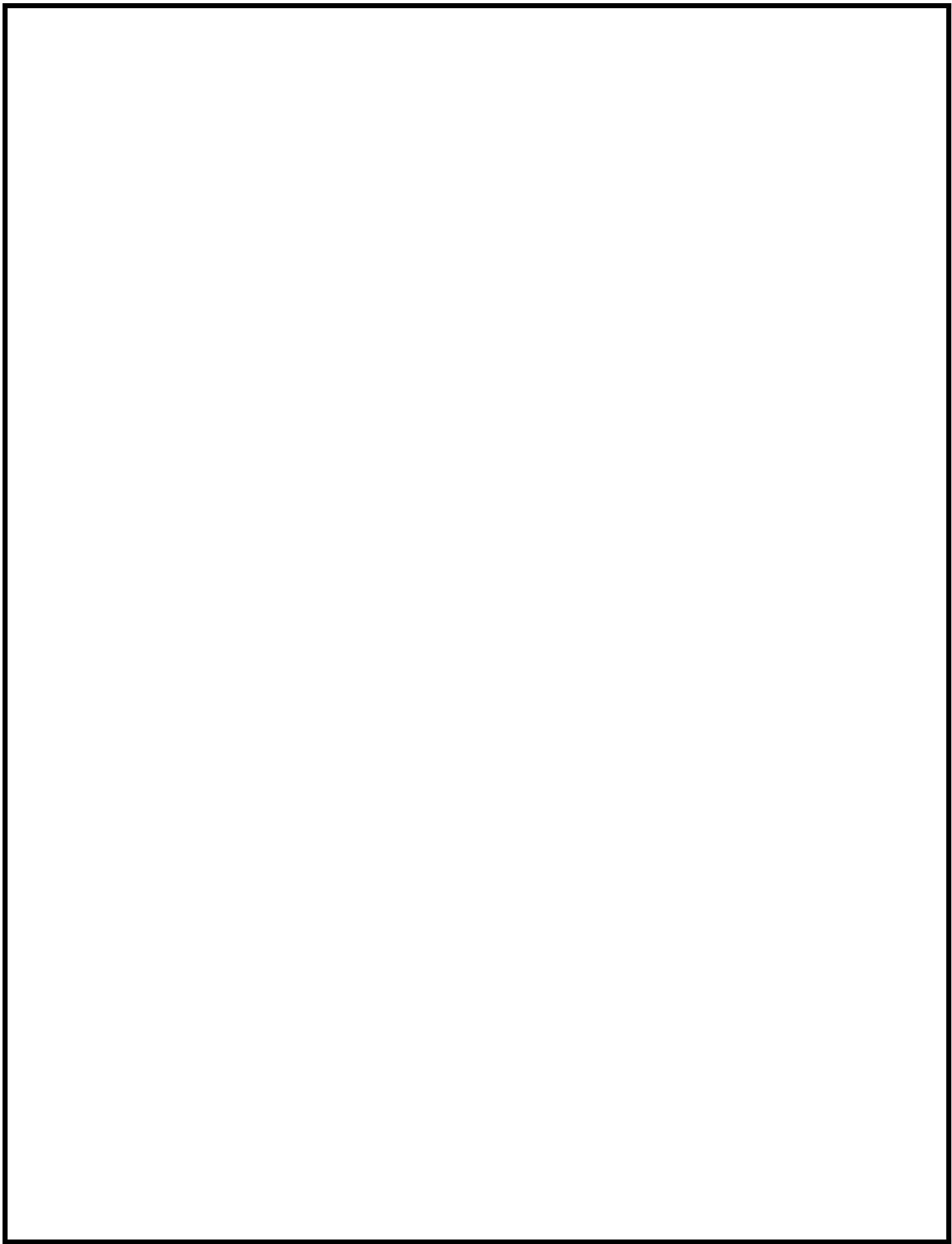
ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is on 144.910 as "SNV1EC". "SNVGW" can be used as a gateway digipeating on 223.66 MHz. The node name is "SNVND".

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Issa's Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:
wd6bor@vom.com

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476



**Valley of the Moon
ARC
1496 Nut Tree Lane
Sonoma, CA 95476**

**NOTICE!!! THE NEXT VOMARC MEETING IS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE
SONOMA FIRE STATION, 630 SECOND STREET WEST,
SONOMA
CU THERE!**

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2005 Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC: \$ _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen

Please check the mailing label on this newsletter. It tells you when your VOMARC dues are due. Dues may be mailed to Ken N6KM, or Jim K6UUW, 1496 Nut Tree Lane, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. If there is any mistake, please do not shoot the messenger; email Eileen KG6QNT at Eileen@vom.com. Your check should be made payable to:

VOMARC